

# How to Safely Discard Cannabis Waste

If you don't safely discard cannabis waste, people may be at risk -- especially children and pets. Waste includes unused cannabis or cannabis products and packaging. These items may contain high levels of THC, the part of cannabis that makes you feel high. THC can harm anyone if it is consumed by mistake.



Before you throw away unused cannabis products and packaging, make sure no one can tell what it is, no one can use it, and no one can consume it.

## What is Cannabis Waste?

Cannabis waste is anything you want to discard that cannot be recycled or reused. It can include unwanted cannabis or materials and packaging that came in contact with cannabis but are not for sale.

### Examples of waste:

- Cannabis in plant form: clippings, roaches, buds, and stems
- Extracts, oils, wax, etc.
- Unused and expired edibles, and other products
- Grinders, rolling trays, pipes, and other equipment used to produce, conceal, or consume cannabis. Also called paraphernalia *pronounced pair-uh-feh-NAIL-yuh*



## How to Safely Discard Cannabis

1. Crush, chop up, or grind leftover cannabis and cannabis products into fine bits.
2. Mix with other waste that is likely to rot, like coffee grounds, garden trimmings, food waste, soil, or kitty litter. These materials are biodegradable – able to break down into harmless products. Make sure cannabis products cannot be recognized so they cannot be used.
3. Put the waste mixture inside a taped and sealed container, like an empty yogurt cup.
4. Throw it in your regular trash can.

Is the packaging recyclable? If so, remove all labels. Place the **EMPTY** and **CLEAN** containers with other recyclables. If the packaging is **NOT** recyclable, throw the **EMPTY** package away with the regular trash. Do not flush cannabis products or packaging down the sink or toilet.

Fully clean and sanitize paraphernalia that cannot be used for another purpose. Make sure it is free of all product and residue before throwing it away.



## Did a child or pet consume cannabis?

If you think a child or pet may have swallowed or inhaled cannabis, see “What to Do” further below. Swallowing or inhaling cannabis, especially by children and animals, can be harmful in ways we do not expect. It’s important to know the signs so you can get help or treatment, if needed.

## Signs that cannabis was consumed

- Sleepy: most common sign in children
- Dizzy or problems with coordination
- Agitated or confused
- Higher-than-normal heart rate
- Nauseous and vomiting
- Slurring words

## What to do

Call the Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 if you think someone was exposed to a cannabis product by mistake -- or they consumed too much.

Call 911 if the person is unconscious. Or they have trouble breathing, walking, or sitting up. Also call if they show signs of having a medical emergency.

Think a child was exposed? Don’t wait for signs to call 911. In more serious cases, children can have trouble breathing, seizures, and/or neurological problems. These affect the brain, spinal cord, or nerves.

Tell responders if you know what cannabis product was taken. It can help them give you the best advice to provide care.

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